



Corres. and Mail
Serial No.: 09/814,066 **BOX AF**

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116
---EXPEDITE PROCEDURE
GROUP ART UNIT 3673

AF/3673
#11
Amend (NE)
12/21/02

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of

Docket No. 20551/I/JR (704001AA)

F. Knauseder

Serial No.: 09/814,066

Group Art Unit: No. 3673

Filed: June 21, 2001

Examiner: Michael Safavi

For: **FLOORING PANELS**

Box: AF

Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED

DEC 19 2002

GROUP 3600

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated October 17, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 2 as follows. A clean copy of amended claim 2 is provided below.

A marked-up copy of the amended claims is attached hereto in the attached separate sheet, entitled "Marked-Up Copy of Claims."

2. (Thrice Amended) A configuration according to claim 1, wherein:

locking elements are on at least one side of the groove and at least one side of the tongue, the locking elements conform to each other and extend over the entire length of the groove and the tongue are provided in the form of an indentation or recess and a projection, in order to hold connected components in a joined position;

the groove is formed directly in the component or is worked out of the same in order to provide for a connection of the components;

the tongue forms a single piece with the component or is worked out of the same;